

#ED-226
R91

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

OFFICE OF ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND ADMINISTRATION

October 12, 2005

Mr. Don L. Klima
Director
Office of Planning and Review
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
Washington, DC 20004

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 428X), BNSF Railway Company –
Abandonment Exemption – in Colfax County, NM

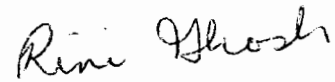
Dear Mr. Klima:

The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is the office within the Surface Transportation Board (Board) that is responsible for conducting the environmental review process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1) and 36 CFR 800.11(e) of the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, I am notifying you that the proposed abandonment, set forth above, may adversely affect historic properties. Accordingly, SEA has begun the consultation process and will be working with Mr. John Murphey at the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (SHPO), the railroad, and other concerned or affected parties, as needed. We do not seek your participation at this time.

The following documents are enclosed for your review: (1) a copy of the Notice of Exemption and the Environmental and Historical Reports filed by BNSF Railway Company in this proceeding (Appendix L includes a statement from the SHPO); (2) a copy of the Environmental Assessment issued by SEA on June 24, 2005; and (3) a copy of a letter from the railroad describing the consultation that has taken place between the railroad and the SHPO thus far.

If you need further information or have any questions, please contact me at (202) 565-1539.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rini Ghosh".

Rini Ghosh
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures

cc (w/out enclosures): Mr. John Murphey, New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
Ms. Sarah Bailiff, BNSF Railway Company